Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Βv

Loïc Le Marchand, MD, PhD

Associate Director for Community Outreach & Engagement, and Population Sciences Lani Park. PhD and Alika Maunakea, PhD, Principal Investigators

And

Naoto T. Ueno, MD, PhD, Director University of Hawai'i Cancer Center

And

Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, Interim Dean and Principal Investigator, Pacific Regional Central Cancer Registry (USAPI)

John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, PhD, Provost University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1301 HD1 SD1 - RELATING TO CANCER

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center (UHCC) and John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) <u>strongly supports</u> HB 1301 HD1 SD1, provided that its passage does not impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget. This measure would appropriate revenues for UHCC to conduct a two-year preliminary study with the goal of establishing a long-term multi-ethnic cohort (MEC) study focusing on social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental and occupational exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos in the State of Hawai'i.

This funding would provide vital resources to help initiate a long-term follow-up study, which would provide critical data to improve the cancer disparities and promote health equity in populations that experience high rates for many common cancers and continue to be understudied and underserved.

National data typically aggregate health information for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) and, thereby, ignore the rich cultural and lifestyle diversity of these populations and mask their marked differences in cancer incidence and outcomes. UHCC has decades of research experience studying cancer disparities in AANHPI. Disaggregated data from the Hawai'i Tumor Registry (the State central cancer registry,

operated by UHCC) show disparities in how early certain cancers are diagnosed (i.e., stage at diagnosis), in the number of new cancers detected each year (i.e., incidence), and in the proportion of deaths caused by certain cancers in Native Hawaiians, Filipinos, and Pacific Islanders residing in Hawaii. Similarly, the Pacific Regional Central Cancer Registry [the US Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI) central cancer registry, operated by JABSOM], shows significant cancer health disparities in late stage at diagnosis and extremely poor survival rates in cervical, oropharyngeal, uterine, and liver cancer among several of the populations indigenous to the USAPI. Many of the US Pacific Islander populations move to Hawaii for educational and economic opportunities, as well as for health care.

Information by cancer site shows that Native Hawaiians have one of the highest rates of lung, breast, colorectal, pancreatic, gastric, liver, endometrial, and cervical cancers among other racial/ethnic groups in the US. Pacific Islanders also have high rates for many cancers that should be addressed through culturally-tailored health education and prevention efforts, such as smoking cessation and screening. Filipino Americans have high incidence rates for lung, colorectal, and thyroid cancer in Hawai'i, and rapidly increasing rates of breast and prostate cancers. It is well-studied that certain types of cancer are heavily influenced by tobacco, dietary composition, and overweight/obesity. Additionally, there is a high correlation between poverty and food insecurity, tobacco use, obesity, and obesity-related chronic disease, including cancer. Studies conducted in the US, USAPI, and globally also indicate other sociocultural impacts on cancer aside from poverty. Detailed epidemiological studies conducted by UHCC to date have shown that known lifestyle risk factors do not fully account for these risk differences. However, due to gaps in the available data, such as on social determinants of health and environmental and occupational exposures, the additional risk/resilience factors that drive these disparities remain unknown. A new cohort study that captures such information would directly address these research gaps.

The proposed two-year, state-funded project would establish the feasibility of recruiting participants for a long-term prospective study and greatly strengthen a federal grant application to NIH to fund the full-scale research. It will also build a strong partnership with these communities so as to define common priority research areas and assist with study recruitment and future dissemination of study findings. The budget needed to perform the two-year feasibility study is expected to be \$500,000 for Year 1 and \$500,000 for Year 2.

This new MEC study is highly needed, and the results will inform UHCC, JABSOM, and UH researchers' current and future work with Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Filipino populations to address and to improve lifestyle, social, cultural, and economic determinants of cancer prevention, cancer screening, and early detection, treatment and survivorship.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Community Voice

More Data Needed To Help Reduce Cancer Disparities

House Bill 1301 would fund a study that focuses on Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders and Asian communities in Hawaii.

By Patricia Kalolaine Cornett

March 17, 2023 · 3 min read













Cancer disparities are a significant public health issue in Hawaii, and our state legislators have the chance, and kuleana, to take a vital step toward helping everyone have a fair and just opportunity to prevent, detect, treat and survive cancer.



Cancer affects everyone but it does not affect everyone equally. Breast cancer incidence and mortality are highest among Native Hawaiian women compared to any other racial or ethnic group in Hawaii. American Samoan men are eight times more likely to develop liver cancer.

The most recent Hawaii Cancer at a Glance report (2014–2018) indicates that lung and bronchus cancer incidence among males is highest among Native Hawaiian and Filipinos. And Filipinos have the highest proportions of late-stage prostate cancers.

I am a breast cancer survivor, so I know screenings can help detect cancer at an earlier stage and save lives. As part of my journey and my work as a health-care worker, I'm committed to helping women get their mammograms and will drive them to their appointment and then back home.

In 2021, I was sitting on my chemo chair when I noticed that among the people who were receiving treatment, I was the only Tongan.

Top Cancer Sites for Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders (1998-2002)

Cancer Incidence Rates per 100,000 - Men (1998-2002) *							
Cancer	Native Hawaiian	Samoan	Tongan	Non- Hispanic White (NHW)	Native Hawaiian/NHW Ratio	Samoan/NHW Ratio	Tongan/NHW Ratio
All Sites	531.6	566.7	428.8	587.0	0.9	1.0	0.7
Colorectal	65.7	43.1		65.6	1.0	0.7	
Liver & IBD	16.3	54.5		6.7	2.4	8.1	
Lung	109.8	111.9	107.0	89.2	1.2	1.3	1.2
Prostate	119.7	144.1	85.0	170.0	0.7	0.8	0.1
Stomach	18.8	53.0		9.9	1.9	5.4	

Cancer Incidence Rates per 100,000 - Women (1998-2002) *							
Cancer	Native Hawaiian	Samoan	Tongan	Non- Hispanic White (NHW)	Native Hawaiian/NHW Ratio	Samoan/NHW Ratio	Tongan/NHW Ratio
All Sites	488.5	472.0	504.7	448.5	1.1	1.1	1.1
Breast	175.8	102.5	118.0	145.2	1.2	0.7	0.8
Cervical	12.3	18.1		8.1	1.5	2.2	
Colorectal	44.0	38.6		47.6	0.9	0.8	
Lung	69.7	56.9		59.0	1.2	1.0	
Stomach	14.5			4.3	3.4		

*IBD = Intrahepatic Bile Duct

Source: NCI 2008. Cancer Incidence and Mortality Patterns among Specific Asian and Pacific Islander Populations in the U.S.

http://seer.cancer.gov/publications/apicancer/index.html

A screenshot from a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report.

"Where are my people and why am I the only one getting treatment?" I asked my husband.

So, I decided to look for them and was hired to reach out to my Tongan Community on the Koolau side, Waiahole, Kahaluu, Punaluu, Hauula, Kahuku, Laie and beyond, to share my story and the importance of mammograms with them.

I currently have an information booth that provides information to mostly Pacific Islander women about the University of Hawaii Cancer Center and how to get a mammogram. For many of them, this is the first time they have signed up to get screened for the first time in several years.

Cancer research also saves lives. It is thanks to a clinical trial that I am now in remission after being diagnosed with cancer for a second time. In addition to helping women get their mammograms, I talk to my community about how crucial cancer research and clinical trials are to help improve cancer outcomes.

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Cancer research also saves lives.

As an American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network volunteer, I understand that besides doctors and researchers, our elected officials also play a pivotal role in improving the lives of people with cancer and their families.

House Bill 1301 aims to provide funds that will allow the University of Hawaii Cancer Center to conduct a multiethnic cohort study that will focus on the different factors that contribute to higher incidence and higher mortality rates in certain cancers among Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and Asian communities including Filipinos in Hawaii.

These are communities that face cultural, language and structural barriers to cancer care — including lack of transportation — and are largely understudied.

The collected data will help better understand cancer disparities and identify gaps in cancer prevention and care delivery that contribute to these disparities as well as how to address them.

In Hawaii, we believe in living pono. I urge our state lawmakers to honor this concept and approve the funding for the multiethnic study that can help end cancer as we know it, for everyone.

Community Voices aims to encourage broad discussion on many topics of community interest. It's kind of a cross between Letters to the Editor and op-eds. This is your space to talk about important issues or interesting people who are making a difference in our world. Column lengths should be no more than

800 words and we need a photo of the author and a bio. We welcome video commentary and other multimedia formats. Send to news@civilbeat.org. The opinions and information expressed in Community Voices are solely those of the authors and not Civil Beat.

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About the Author

Patricia Kalolaine Cornett



Patricia Kalolaine Cornett is an outreach coordinator for the University of Hawaii Cancer Center. She is also a cancer survivor and a volunteer for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Cancer Society's nonprofit and nonpartisan advocacy affiliate. Cornett serves on several community boards, including the Lauhi Foundation and the Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander R3 outreach collaborative group.



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Note: Different people may use the same username. For instance, there are commenters who go by Malia. There are at least five Ricks and four Daves. intended to ridicule someone else are not allowed.

No links, please.

Be patient. We read every comment but we also need to sleep, spend time our other work so there may sometimes be a considerable lag between wh and when it appears on the story. Weekends and evenings in particular.

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All Comments 1

Kahua 2 weeks ago

It is worth remembering in 2022 Chaminade University published a study Ethnopharmacology 294 (2022) showing compounds in kava ('awa) have ϵ study (University of Florida) entitled "Kava as a Clinical Nutrient"* comme combined with sea hibiscus, displayed anticancer activity against breast a reduced prostate tumor growth." More recent studies at UC, Irvine are sh properties in kava as well. University of Florida has published kava anti-lu studies. Most all are discussed indepth in the Nutrients paper.

*Nutrients 2020, 12, 3044

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RE: SUPPORT - HB1301, Relating to Cancer and University of Hawai'i; Cancer Center; Multiethnic Cohort Study

Chair and members of the committee.

I am Adam Zarrin, the Director of State Government Affairs for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society® (LLS) is a global leader in the fight against cancer. The LLS mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world, provides free information and support services, and is the voice for all blood cancer patients seeking access to quality, affordable, coordinated care.

We support HB1301, relating to cancer, and a multi-ethnic cohort study.

The study would identify reasons for the disproportionally high risk of chronic diseases among Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. The study will also suggest new ways to address these long-standing disparities.

These first steps will help develop new therapies for patients with cancer and other serious illnesses. These conditions require extensive research and innovation and depend on foundational research like this.

History has shown us that not all patients have had the same opportunity or consideration in clinical research. For example, those from historically marginalized groups are often under-represented in clinical trials.

Such a lack of diversity among people participating is problematic on multiple levels. It impacts our understanding of how effective new drugs might be across populations and how to reduce disparities in access to treatment.

We are excited that Hawaii can be a leader in addressing health equity in underrepresented communities, and we hope you will support HB1301.

Thank you.



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means Wednesday, April 5, 2023; 10:00 a.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 211 Via Videoconference

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1301, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO CANCER.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA <u>SUPPORTS</u> House Bill No. 1301, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO CANCER.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal years 2023-2024, and 2024-2025, for a multi-ethnic cohort study focusing on the social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos. The funds would be expended by the University of Hawaii, and require the University to seek additional funds to complete the multi-cohort study.

This bill also clarifies that cancer research focusing on Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos is a matter of statewide concern, and would take effect on June 30, 3000.

The goal of medical research is to develop safe and effective methods to prevent, detect, diagnose, treat and ultimately cure the collection of diseases known as cancer. The better we understand these diseases, the more progress we will make toward diminishing the tremendous human and economic toll disease inflicts upon our citizenry.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1301, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 Wednesday, April 5, 2023; 10:00 a.m. Page 2

Nearly 10 years ago, the HPCA testified in support of House Bill No. 1616, Regular Session of 2014, a measure that would add to the Hawaii State Planning Act's objectives and policies for health, the identification of social determinants of health and prioritization of programs, services, interventions, and activities that address identified social determinants of health to improve Native Hawaiian health in accordance with federal law and reduce health disparities of disproportionately affected demographics.

We noted in our testimony that House Bill No. 1616, seeks to:

"... identify those specific social determinants that adversely affect Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos. As these populations make a sizeable percentage of patients seen by community health centers, the HPCA strongly supports this measure."

This bill was enacted as Act 155, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014.

Ten years later, we continue to recognize the importance of social determinants of health on the health care outcomes and quality of life of Hawaii's most vulnerable, marginalized, and isolated constituencies. The more we learn the better we are able to act.

The HPCA strongly supports this important measure and commends the introducer for offering this proposal. We urge your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiipca.net.

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 10:05:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Kawailani Ozawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We know a lot about cancer and its myriad determinants thanks to a 20+ year cohort study focused on Japanese Americans in Hawaii and California. But we know almost nothing about how cancer emerges among Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos. We can change this.

Cancer is the leading cause of death among Asian Americans and the second-leading cause among Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander individuals. Please fund a new multi-ethnic cohort study by the University of Hawaii Cancer Center focused on these groups, which are well-represented among Hawaii's population.

The facts:

- 8,460 Hawaii residents will be diagnosed with cancer this year.
- Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii with an estimated 2,620 deaths this year.
- Breast cancer incidence and mortality were highest among Native Hawaiian women compared to any other racial or ethnic group in Hawaii.
- Lung cancer incidence is higher among Native Hawaiians as well as Filipinos.
- There are over 200,000 Filipinos in Hawaii. For every 4 people, one has Filipino
- ancestry
- Initial funding of the study will increase research opportunities for additional funding as a National Cancer Institute research program.

Thank you for your consideration!

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 10:43:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of HB 1301, HD 1, SD 1. It will provide the first steps of identifying risk factors to help these ethnic populations.

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 12:38:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Maunakea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am Dr. Alika Maunakea, Professor in the Department of Anatomy, Biochemistry and Physiology at the University of Hawaii Manoa, John A. Burns School of Medicine and the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, and Principal Investigator of the NIH-funded Hawaii Social Epigenomics of Early Diabetes (HI-SEED) cohort study and a proposed Hawai'i Multicultural Asian and Native Ancestry (HI-MANA) cohort study for cancer research relevant to HB 1301.

As you know, Cancer is the second largest cause of cancer death in the state and has cost residents of the state billions of dollars until now. Equally pressing, cancer incidence is disproportionately affecting minorities in the state of Hawai'i, including Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, and those of lower income. As a Native Hawaiian born and raised in Wai'anae, O'ahu, I have personally witnessed this disparity first-hand, with multiple family members having died of cancer. As a professional researcher in the field of cancer research and member of the University of Hawaii Cancer Center, it is clear that the etiology of the disparities we observe in these communities remain largely unknown. HB 1301 will provide support for gathering critical data needed to understand this etiology, which is urgently needed to design better approaches that would reduce and ultimately eliminate cancer disparities in our communities via enabling early detection and prevention.

Urgent solutions are needed to better understand and address cancer in Hawai'i, and this can start by establishing a new multi-ethnic cohort that will help understand social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental exposures, and resilience factors of Hawai'i's populations focused on prevention rather than treatment. HB 1301 shows Hawai'i's commitment to addressing cancer and is a stepping stone to further national funding.

I humbly ask for your SUPPORT and pass HB 1301 HD1 SD1 for state funding of \$1 million over two years on a multi-ethnic cohort study by the University of Hawaii Cancer Center of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Asian groups including Filipinos.

Mahalo nui.

Alika Maunakea, PhD

Associate Professor – Epigenomics Research Program

Co-Director – Pacific Alliance Against COVID-19 (PAAC)

Director – Consortium of Research Advancement Facilities & Training (CRAFT)

University of Hawai'i, Manoa

(Honolulu resident of zip code 96826)

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Ways & Means

RE: Strong Support of HB 1301 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.

Hearing: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 10:00 am, Conference Room 211

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michelle Hashimoto, a Puunui resident and long time cancer fighter in my community. I am also advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center. As a caregiver for my father who battled cancer, a concerned parent, and an active community member, I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1301 HD1 – RELATING TO CANCER.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii with 2,500 deaths each year and the leading cause of death among Asian Americans and the second-leading cause (after heart disease) among Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander individuals.

My 86-year old father was diagnosed with esophageal cancer a few months before his passing. Although he didn't pass from cancer, please know that through studies like the Multiethnic Cohort (MEC) study, lifesaving findings help folks like my father get diagnosed earlier as well as have more treatment options and <u>better health outcomes</u>. Our families and friends need your support for today and ... for our future.

Research is critical to understanding and reducing cancer disparities, as well as examining gaps in cancer prevention and care delivery that contribute to these disparities.

I ask that you support funding for the University of Hawaii Cancer Center to conduct a Multiethnic Cohort (MEC) study focusing on the social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Asians including Filipinos.

Everyone should have equitable access to quality cancer care and an equal opportunity to live a healthy life. Our ability to continue to make progress against cancer relies heavily on eliminating the inequities that exist in cancer care, including research. Data collection will aid future research to improve health equity for minority populations unique to the people of Hawaii.

Please support and pass HB 1301 HD1.

Sincerely, Michelle Hashimoto 2533 Stream Drive Honolulu, HI 96817 (808) 741-5854

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 1:09:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Manuel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran:

I humbly urge your SUPPORT of House Bill 1301, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 – Relating to Cancer.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii with 2,500 deaths each year. Cancer is the leading cause of death among Asian Americans and the second-leading cause (after heart disease) among Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander individuals. As a Native Hawaiian Filipino Pacific Islander raised in Hawaii, I have personally witnessed many family members and members of my community die of cancer at a disproportionate rate when compared to other ethnic groups. I am highly vested in the intent of HB 1301 HD1 SD1 to gather and analyze critical data, not only to understand the social determinants of health and environmental elements of cancer disparities but also that House Bill 1301 HD1 SD1puts a focus on prevention strategies rather than just treatment. This collection of data will support future research to improve health equity, health outcomes, and quality of life for minority populations unique to the people of Hawaii.

I ask that you support funding for the University of Hawaii Cancer Center to conduct a multiethnic cohort study focusing on the social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Asians including Filipinos.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify and strongly urge your support of HB 1301 HD1 SD1.

Naomi Manuel, Kahalu'u, O'ahu

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 1:21:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Filipino and my family has a history of cancer and diabetes. Understanding how future generations or how my current family can prevent getting cancer will help everyone

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 2:04:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle loui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Loui and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am in STRONG **SUPPORT** of HB 1301 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO CANCER. Cancer affects everyone, but it does not affect everyone equally.

In Particular I have known several Asiatic foreign Nationals who have a higher chance of Liver Cancer. My mother is a survivor of breast cancer. My Grandfather on my mother side died of Lung cancer. Which does affect a lot of Asians since particularly in the asian pacific smoking is more commonplace than in Hawaii. Additionally I have be involved in previous research in Liver Flukes and their conection to Liver Cancer.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Hawaii and the <u>leading</u> cause of death among Asian Americans and the second-leading cause (after heart disease) among Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander individuals.

Research is critical to understanding and reducing cancer disparities, as well as examining gaps in cancer prevention and care delivery that contribute to these disparities for minority populations unique to Hawaii.

I humbly ask for your SUPPORT and pass HB 1301 HD1 SD1 for state funding of \$1 million over two years on a multi-ethnic cohort study by the University of Hawaii Cancer Center of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Asian groups including Filipinos.

Sincerely,

Kyle Loui

Honolulu, 96814